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EXAMINER


IRSHADULLAH, M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3623

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/707,926	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BUTTON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> M. Irshadullah	<b>Art Unit</b> 3623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to amendments filed May 06, 2004.

#### ***Summary Of Instant Office Action***

2. Applicant's arguments regarding claims 1-6 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102, Office Action mailed January 06, 2004 have been fully considered and are responded below.
3. Amendments to specification, claims 1-6 and newly submitted claims 7-20 have been entered.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lobiondo (US Patent 5,287,194).

Lobiondo discloses:

Claim 1. A method for processing a print job by at least a first and a second print shop which are geographically distributed whereby:

a) said print shops are connected via a computer network (Fig. 1 {printers 10 interconnected or networked via 20}, col. 3, lines 18-27, wherein "printer locations", local

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or remote (Col. 4, lines 16-19), representing "print shops". Moreover, reference's "printshop" being exemplary (Fig. 2, described col. 5, lines 63-68) and generic would encompass more than one printshops);

b) each print shop forwards a production schedule to a central repository connected to said computer network, said production schedule comprising data allowing a representation of the respective production schedule at said print shops (Col. 6, lines 22-41, wherein entering job together with criteria including media, format, size, number of copies, completion time etc., by a user at workstation 30 representing information or data relative to "job or document printing or production schedule" of "one of or respective to a printing facility or printshop at a location (Col. 6, lines 22-25 recited with col. 3, lines 56-60), and the user at a location "sending or forwarding" said document printing or production schedule to print server or spooler 60 {repository} on the network 20. Moreover, cited workstation 30 at local or remote locations, col. 3, lines 27-36, are connected to said server or spooler 60, and server or spooler functioning as storage or repository of information containing criteria, col. 3, lines 37-41);

c) said first print shop lacking sufficient printing capacity for processing said print job accesses the production schedule of said second print shop via said central repository (Col. 4, lines and 46-65, wherein scheduler 50's determination that single printer at a location or "first print shop" cannot print the job owing to "printer's {less} production speed", inferring "lacking sufficient capacity" and scheduler 50's allocation of job or portion thereof to "other printer at another location or second printshop" pointing to "accessing second printshop's production schedule" and since

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scheduler 50 is located or installed imprint server or spooler 60 (Col. 3, lines 37-41), said scheduler networking with print server or spooler 60 {repository or central repository} indicating that the scheduler performs access through or via spooler or central repository 60);

d) said first print shop displays the production schedule of said second print shop accessed from said central repository (Fig. 2, described col. 5, lines 63-65, wherein "any of the reprographic machines or printers at a location" representing "first print shop" and a user would use "display75, Fig. 2", at said location or first print shop for depicting the job or document printing or production schedule of another location or second print shop, and as discussed above, job or document printing or production schedules are stored in print server or spooler or central repository 60, said first printshop accessing other or second printshop's schedule from it); and

e) said first print shop transfers at least part of said print job to said second print shop, If spare printing capacity is indicated in the production schedule of said second print shop at said first print shop displayed at said first printshop (Col. 4, lines 54-65, wherein "allocating print job as much as possible" and allocating "remaining portions" to other printer or printers at other location(s) indicating "transferring" the job and "allocating or scheduling" job to other or second printers at other location inferring availability of "extra or spare capacity" of the other or second location or print shop, said capacity or capability "being part of or indicated in the above discussed information or schedules which are sent and stored in print server 60 storage means or database" as indicated by: "database including printer file containing information relating to each

printer {at each location} relating to printer type, quality, capability etc., col. 3, line 68 through col. 4, line 3", and said first printshop using display 75 in interface 40, Fig. 2, displaying said information):

f) wherein said first and second print shops effect the transfer of the at least part of the print job independent of any centralized scheduling application while each print shop may operate a scheduling application of its choosing (Col. 3, lines 41-50, wherein cited system's providing means for "printshop scheduler 50's locating or installing at various local workstations 30 within the network" indicating reference's teaching that printing facilities or printshops {first and second printshops} would use cited "scheduler 50 comprising scheduling software or application within their workstations or non-centralized or independent of centralized scheduler", and would use the same for above discussed transferring job or document printing or production schedules. Moreover, word "local" in "local workstations 30" indicating to mean workstation 30 located at "any location" in the network, including printers or workstations located at remote locations).

Claim 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said production schedule data, which are suitable for a storage in the central repository, are created as a digitized photograph from a hard copy of the production schedule (Fig. 2 and col. 6, line 1, wherein cited "scanner section 35", would provide claimed "digitized photograph" of any document including "printed or hard copy" of the production schedule).

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Claim 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said production schedule data, which are suitable for a storage in the central repository, are created by a computer-aided scheduling tool (Col. 4, lines 35-39, wherein "sending digital representation" to network printer spooling area indicating the reference's capability of generating or creating computerized or computer-aided job or document printing or production scheduling means or tool. Moreover, Scheduler 50 being computer device, Fig. 3, having Menu would produce or create said job or document printing or production schedule).

Claim 4. The method according to claim 7, wherein the production schedule is delivered from the central repository to the first print shop only in cases that the first print shop satisfies access conditions which are defined by the plurality of print shops (Col. 4, lines 35-57 and col. 5, lines 27-33, wherein "server or spooler 60" sends or delivers requested print job through scheduler 50 to any of the printer locations or print shops and recitation of "user requesting to allocate or schedule to different printer at some specific location or print shop and have the scheduler 50 allocate or schedule the job at requested location or print shop" indicating reference system's capability to provide flexible programming to achieve different function or functionality from the same means or device, such as displaying print job allocation or schedule, which capability a user would use for claimed purpose).

Claim 5. The method according to claim 7, wherein the said first print shop only displays production schedules of the plurality of print shops which are located within a pre-defined geographical region (Col. 5, lines 15-38 and discussion in Applicant's claim 4, wherein cited "predetermined location" pointing to "pre-defined geographical region").

Claim 6. The method according to claim 7, wherein the said first print shop only displays production schedules of the plurality of print shops which belong to a pre-defined group of preferred print shops (Col. 5, lines 15-38 and discussion in Applicant's claim 4, wherein cited "printers 10 located near predetermined location" indicating "pre-defined group of printers of user selected or preferred printer locations or print shops").

Claim 7. The method according to claim 1. wherein said second print shop comprises a plurality of print shops connected via said computer network with said first print shop (Fig. 1, printers 10 on left hand, R1-R5, representing "a number or plurality of second printer locations or printshops" which are connected via communication link or computer network 20" to "any of printers 10 on the right hand, L1-L4, functioning as first printshop").

Claim 8. The method according to claim 7, wherein some of the plurality of print shops forward multiple representations of their production schedules at different levels of detail to said central repository (See discussion about generating job or



document printing or production schedule and sending or forwarding the same to print server or spooler or central repository in Applicant's claim 1b) above, and a user would use said functionality for generating and forwarding a number or plurality of said schedules comprising the details or levels of details of their choice to said repository).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (US Patent 5,287,194) in view of well known technique or procedure.

Lobiondo teaches:

Claim 9. A method for processing a print job with geographically distributed print shops, comprising:

a) coupling a first set of print shops, a second set print shops, and a central repository via a network; the first set of print shops having one print shop and the second set of print shops having a plurality of print shops (Fig. 1 showing L1-L4, R1-R5 and 60 respectively representing "first set of printshops, second set of printshops and central repository". Cited 60 functioning as repository or central repository is indicated by: "information containing criteria, such as type of document, media format, size, completion time etc., col. 6, lines 22-27, storing in storage means in 60, col. 3, lines 37-

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41”), and any of L1-L4 representing claimed “printshop as the first set of printshop”, and R1-R5 representing claimed “a number or plurality of second printshops in the second set);

c) retrieving, at the print shop in the first set of print shops from the central repository via the network when the print shop in the first set of print shops lacks sufficient printing capacity for processing the print job, the production schedules of print shops in the second set of print shops having access controls that permit visibility of their production schedules to the print shop in the first set of print shops (Col. 4, lines 46-53, wherein cited scheduler 50 checking availability of requisite printers indicating that said scheduler obtaining or retrieving information relating to availability of printers from database as per recitation: “database containing printer availability file, col. 4, lines 8-13”; i.e., the reference implicitly teaching “retrieving” function which function would user for “first printshop retrieving production schedules of printshops in the second set of print shops from the above discussed central repository”, and see discussion of Applicant’s claims 1b) and 1c) above);

d) transferring, from the print shop in the first set of print shops to at least one print shop in the second set of print shops via the network, at least part of the print job when spare printing capacity is indicated in at least one retrieved production schedule of the second set of print shops (See discussion of Applicant’s claim 1e) above);

e) wherein the print shop in the first set of print shops and the at least one print shop in the second set of print shops effect the transfer of the at least part of the

print job independent of any centralized scheduling application while each print shop may operate a scheduling application of its choosing (See discussion of Applicant's claim 1f) above); and

In the following element:

b) sending to the central repository a production schedule representative of at least one print shop in the second set of print shops with access controls that allow visibility of its production schedule to include the print shop in the first set of print shops; each production schedule sent by a print shop comprising data allowing a representation of the respective production schedule.

Lobiondo teaches:

sending to the central repository a production schedule representative of at least one print shop in the second set of print shops and each production schedule sent by a print shop comprising data allowing a representation of the respective production schedule (See discussion about generating job or document printing or production schedules and forwarding or sending the same above discussed server or spooler or central repository 60, said job or document printing or production schedules belonging to any or at least one of printshop in said second set R1-R5, and said schedules "presenting or allowing representation of any of or respective to" said printshops R1-R5).

Lobiondo does not teach:

Including or assigning access control allowing viewing second printshops' production schedules by the first printshop.

However, assigning an access code for controlling users' access to an information, such as claimed second printshops' production schedules, is well known and practiced in the computer and networking arts (For support of the statement, please see claim 43 of enclosed Orlick's patent 2002/0049733 A1). While Lobiondo providing a printshop management scheduling program and system, Orlick teaches scheduling system with different accessing codes for viewing the information the different users.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant arts at the time of Applicant's invention to incorporate Orlick's feature into Lobiondo's invention, thereby providing a system enabling accessing and viewing the permitted information or data.

Claim 10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the print shop in the first set of print shops displays the production schedules of the second set of print shops retrieved from the central repository (Lobiondo: See discussion of Applicant's claim 1d) above).

Claim 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein each of the print shops in the second set of print shops sends its respective production schedule to the central repository (Lobiondo: See discussion about a print facility or printshop generating job or document printing or production schedule and forwarding or sending the same to print server or spooler or central repository in Applicant's claim 1b) above, and a user would use said functionalities for claimed purpose).

Claim 12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the network is a computer network (Lobiondo: Fig. 1 described col. 3, lines 16-27).

Claim 13. The method according to claim 10, wherein at least some of the production schedules of the print shops in the second set of print shops are created from a digitized photograph of a hard copy rendering of their production schedules (Lobiondo: See discussion of Applicant's claim 2 above).

Claim 14. The method according to claim 9, further comprising limiting the production schedules of the print shops in the second set of print shops retrieved by the print shop in the first set of print shops from the central repository as a function of geographical location of the print shop in the first set of print shops and the print shops in the second set of print shops (Lobiondo: See discussion about geographical region or location, about obtaining or retrieving function and access control or limitation respectively in Applicant's claims 5, 9b) and 9c) above, and a user would use said functionalities for claimed purpose).

Claim 15. The method according to claim 9, further comprising limiting the production schedules of print shops in the second set of print shops retrieved by the print shop in the first set of print shops from the central repository as a function of a user profile attached to the print shop in the first set of print shops (Lobiondo: See discussion about access control or limitation and obtaining or retrieving function in

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Applicant's claims 9b) and 9c) above, and a user would use said functionalities for claimed purpose).

Claim 16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the user profile of the print shop in the first set of print shops defines a set of preferred print shops from the second set of print shops (Lobiondo: See discussion of Applicant's claim 6 above, and col. 6, lines 19-27, wherein user requesting criteria including entering media format, etc., indicating user's defining information, which function a user would use for claimed purpose).

8. Claim 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (US Patent 5,287,194) in view of Giovannoli (US Patent 5,842,178).

Claim 17. A method for processing a print job with geographically distributed print shops, comprising:

a) coupling a plurality of print shops and a central repository via a network (Lobiondo: See discussion of Applicant's claim 9a) above);

b) sending production schedules from ones of the plurality of print shops to the central repository; each production schedule sent by a print shop comprising data allowing a representation of the respective production schedule (Lobiondo: See discussion of Applicant's claim 9b) above);

c) accessing, from a first of the plurality of print shops at the central repository,

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the production schedules of other of the plurality of print shops when the first print shop lacks sufficient printing capacity for processing the print job (Lobiondo: See discussion of Applicant's claim 9c) above and replacing "retrieving" to "accessing");

e) displaying, at the first of the plurality of print shops, the production schedules remaining after filtering those production schedules satisfying the geographical location limitation (Lobiondo: Fig. 2, {75 in 40}, col. 6, line 2, and a user at location L1 or first printshop would use cited display for depicting or displaying rest of or remaining schedules after below discussed filtering the schedules by geographical region or location);

f) transferring from the first of the plurality of print shops to at least one of the other of the plurality of print shops at least part of the print job when spare printing capacity is indicated in the production schedule of the at least one of the other of the plurality of print shops (Lobiondo: See discussion of Applicant's claim 9d) above);

g) wherein the first of the plurality of print shops and the at least one of the other of the plurality of print shops effect the transfer of the at least part of the print job independent of any centralized scheduling application while each print shop may operate a scheduling application of its choosing (Lobiondo: See discussion of Applicant's claim 9e) above); and

In the following element:

d) filtering the production schedules of the other of the plurality of print shops accessed by first of the plurality of print shops from the central repository as a

function of geographical location of the first of the plurality of print shops relative the other of the plurality of print shops.

Lobiondo teaches:

Production schedules of the other of the plurality of printshops accessed by the first of the plurality of printshops from the central repository (See discussion about generating a job or documents printing or production schedule in Applicant's claim 1b) above).

Lobiondo does not explicitly teach:

filtering based on geographical location.

However, Giovannoli teaches the same (Abstract, lines 20-21). While Lobiondo providing a printshop management scheduling program and system, Giovannoli teaching a computerized business system including filtering network members located at various geographical regions or locations.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the relevant art at the time of Applicant's invention to include Giovannoli's feature into Lobiondo's invention, thereby entailing a system enabling the system users to defining filtering conditions of their choice including filtering by geographical regions or locations.

Claim 18. The method according to claim 17, further comprising filtering the production schedules of the other of the plurality of print shops accessed by first of the plurality of print shops from the central repository as a function of a preferred set



of print shops defined by the other of the plurality of print shops (Lobiondo: See discussion of Applicant's claim 6 above).

Claim 19. The method according to claim 17, wherein the production schedules displayed at the first of the plurality of print shops is graphically represented (Lobiondo: Col. 6, lines 19-21, wherein scheduler 50 being menu driven displaying any information, including above discussed job or document printing or production schedules of first printshop, on display 75 in interface 40, Fig. 2, in "graphical format or representation").

Claim 20. The method according to claim 17, wherein the production schedules displayed at the first of the plurality of print shops is created from a digitized photograph of a hard copy rendering of the production schedules (Lobiondo: See discussion of Applicant's claim 2 above).

### ***Response to Arguments***

9. Applicant's arguments filed May 06, 2004 have been fully considered and are responded below.

Applicant argues that:

a) Lobiondo does not teach: decentralized control of print jobs by printshops coupled to a network and a centralized repository storing schedules of printshops.

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In this regard Applicant is directed to Lobiondo's col. 3, lines 41-50, wherein cited scheduler 50 located in various local workstations 30 within the network 20 clearly indicating that when scheduler 50 is located or installed in workstations 30 attached to printers 10, users of workstations 30 at various locations or printshops would perform all functions including generating and sending job or document or production scheduling using their own workstations without using any centralized storage or repository such as print server or spooler 60, and said server or repository 60 would function as central storage means or repository storing information including aforementioned schedules generated by print facilities or printshops and sent to said storage means or repository, as per recitation: "the information containing criteria for printing jobs, such as type of document, sizing, formatting, time of completion etc., col. 3, lines 51-56 or col. 6, lines 22-27. Moreover, the reference teaches networking of printers 10 having workstations 30, col. 3, lines 16-36.

Thus, Lobiondo teaches the limitation in question.

b) Lobiondo does not teach claim 1 limitations following limitations 1-4:

1) first print shop lacking sufficient printing capacity for processing said print job accesses the production schedule of said second print shop via said central repository.

In this respect, Applicant is referred to Lobiondo's col. 4, lines and 46-65, wherein scheduler 50's determination that single printer at a location or "first print shop" cannot print the job owing to "printer's {less} production speed", inferring "lacking sufficient capacity" and scheduler 50's allocation of job or portion thereof to "other printer at

another location or second printshop" pointing to "accessing second printshop's production schedule" and since scheduler 50 is located or installed imprint server or spooler 60 (Col. 3, lines 37-41), said scheduler networking with print server or spooler 60 {repository or central repository} indicating that the scheduler performs access through or via spooler or central repository 60.

2) first print shop displays the production schedule of said second print shop accessed from said central repository.

Relative to this Applicant is directed to Lobiondo's Fig. 2, described col. 5, lines 63-65, wherein "any of the reprographic machines or printers at a location" representing "first print shop" and a user would use "display75, Fig. 2", at said location or first print shop for depicting the job or document printing or production schedule of another location or second print shop, and as discussed above, job or document printing or production schedules are stored in print server or spooler or central repository 60, said first printshop accessing other or second printshop's schedule from it.

3) first print shop transfers at least part of said print job to said second print shop, If spare printing capacity is indicated in the production schedule of said second print shop at said first print shop displayed at said first printshop.

In response to this, Applicant is referred to Lobiondo's col. 4, lines 54-65, wherein "allocating print job as much as possible" and allocating "remaining portions" to other printer or printers at other location(s) indicating "transferring" the job and "allocating or scheduling" job to other or second printers at other location inferring availability of "extra or spare capacity" of the other or second location or print shop, said capacity or

capability "being part of or indicated in the above discussed information or schedules which are sent and stored in print server 60 storage means or database" as indicated by: "database including printer file containing information relating to each printer {at each location} relating to printer type, quality, capability etc., col. 3, line 68 through col. 4, line 3", and said first printshop using display 75 in interface 40, Fig. 2, displaying said information.

4) wherein said first and second print shops effect the transfer of the at least part of the print job independent of any centralized scheduling application while each print shop may operate a scheduling application of its choosing.

Relating to this Applicant it is noted that the feature was not claimed previously.

However, Applicant's is referred to Lobiondo's col. 3, lines 41-50, wherein cited system's providing means for "printshop scheduler 50's locating or installing at various local workstations 30 within the network" indicating reference's teaching that printing facilities or printshops {first and second printshops} would use cited "scheduler 50 comprising scheduling software or application within their workstations or non-centralized or independent of centralized scheduler", and would use the same for above discussed transferring job or document printing or production schedules. Moreover, word "local" in "local workstations 30" indicating to mean workstation 30 located at "any location" in the network, including printers or workstations located at remote locations.

c) Lobiondo teaches one printshop with printers at remote locations.

In this respect Applicant being highly knowledgeable in computer and networking arts, will appreciably realize that Lobiondo's system described as "The invention relating to

printshop management scheduling routine providing optimum scheduling of print jobs on a network, and said routine utilizing total complex of printers available at local and remote locations", wherein "networked printers at different local and/or remote locations" clearly indicating the utility of the reference system in relation to different printshops located in a city, state, country or around the world which are networked together.

In the light of above discussion, it is stated that Applicant's arguments have been fully considered, deemed unpersuasive and prior rejection is maintained.

### ***Conclusion***

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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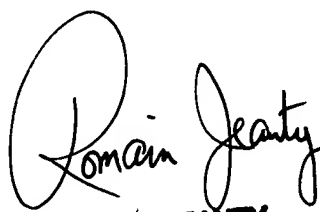
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Irshadullah whose telephone number is 703-308-6683. The examiner can normally be reached between 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 703-305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



M. Irshadullah  
July 27, 2004



ROMAIN JEANTY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
Art Unit 3623